

# Helensburgh Bridge Club

## 'Next steps'

THE PLAY IN TRUMP CONTRACTS



LESSON 3

# Helensburgh Bridge Club

## QUIZ ANSWERS L22

3) You are West, about to make the opening lead. Which card do you play?

♠ 9863  
♥ AJ952  
♦ A5  
♣ J8

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

♠ 982  
♥ Q9  
♦ Q1053  
♣ K1083

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

♠ QJ102  
♥ 964  
♦ A7  
♣ Q1083

	N	
W		E
	S	

West	North	East	South
-	1♥	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

a)           ♥5          

b)           ♦3          

c)           ♠Q

To highlight the differences between play in NT contracts and in suit contracts

To show how to make a plan in a trump contract

To explain why we sometimes have to postpone drawing trumps

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# WHEN DUMMY GOES DOWN: **L.P.**

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In NT contracts we learned the mnemonic **C.W.P.**  
We **can** use the same technique in trump contracts  
but usually more useful & simpler is:

## **L.P.**

- **Losers:** how many tricks **might** you lose?
- **Plan** the play
  - including possibly having to reduce your potential losers to few enough to make your contract

## POSSIBLE LOSERS

### **Possible Losers:** tricks you **may** lose

- to start, assume normal breaks (be slightly pessimistic)
- assume bad breaks/layouts when contract looks secure
- assume good breaks/layouts when contract looks awful

♠AQ763

♥K8

♦JT2

♣A96

W N  
S E

♠K842

♥Q74

♦AQ53

♣82

West plays in 4♠, ♣Q led.

Possible losers are?

0 in spades (unless 4-0)

1 in hearts

1 in diamonds (if finesse fails)

1 in clubs

## MAKING A PLAN

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With losers counted:

- too many losers? - then see if they can be reduced. Perhaps you can discard potential losers **before losing** them, or else you may need even breaks or missing cards to lie well
- manageable losers?
  - then usually time to draw trump
  - after drawing them, you will often turn to developing a **work suit**

You may **not have** a work suit; in suit contracts extra tricks **can** come from **ruffs**, usually after drawing trump (but sometimes before)

We will look at that in a future lesson

## DISPOSING OF LOSERS - 1

One side suit may provide discards for loser(s) in another

- sometimes you can afford to draw trump first
- sometimes you must do it before drawing trump
- sometimes you must even **develop the side suit** first

♠ A73

♥ AKQ83

♦ Q6

♣ QT6

W N  
S E

♠ 854

♥ T965

♦ AK3

♣ J82

West plays in 4♥, ♠Q led.  
2 losers in spades  
0 in hearts (unless N has 4)  
0 in diamonds  
2 in clubs  
draw trump, discard ♠ on ♦

## DISPOSING OF LOSERS - 2

♠K		♠A42
♥KJT42	W N	♥Q9753
♦A62	S E	♦983
♣T872		♣A4

West plays in 4♥, ♦4 led.  
0 losers in spades  
1 loser in trump (hearts)  
2 losers in diamonds  
1 loser in clubs  
win ♦A, unblock ♠K, cross to  
♣A and discard ♦ on ♠A

♠K73		♠A42
♥AQJ72	W N	♥T975
♦4	S E	♦KQ5
♣AK86		♣754

West plays in 4♥, ♠J led.  
1 loser in spades  
1 in hearts (if finesse fails)  
1 in diamonds  
1 in clubs (unless ♦A with N)  
win ♠K, lead ♦4 immediately

## KEEPING TRUMP CONTROL - 1

Another reason to postpone drawing trump is to avoid losing **trump control**

Having trump control stops defenders cashing their winners in suits you are out of

- you may lose control when you have no trumps left
- or when you end up with fewer trumps than a defender

♠AJT3

♥K4

♦QJT62

♣Q5

W N  
S E

♠KQ92

♥A87

♦K5

♣9632

West plays in 4♠, ♥Q led

0 losers in spades

0 losers in hearts

1 loser in diamonds

2 losers in clubs

ok, so begin drawing trump

## KEEPING TRUMP CONTROL - 2

♠ KQ92  
♥ A87  
♦ K5  
♣ 9632

♠ 8  
♥ QJ93  
♦ A987  
♣ KJT7

W N  
S E

♠ 7654  
♥ JT72  
♦ 43  
♣ A84

♠ AJT3  
♥ K4  
♦ QJT62  
♣ Q5

South plays in 4♠, ♥Q led  
(previous hand, rotated W->S)

You win ♥A and start drawing  
trump. West shows out on 2<sup>nd</sup>  
STOP

If you draw all the trump, you  
will have none left in either  
hand. When defence win ♦A,  
they can cash 4 tricks in clubs.

New Plan: postpone drawing  
trump – develop work suit  
while your trumps in hand  
control club suit. Once ♦A is  
gone, you can later draw trump  
& run diamonds.

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## 'Next steps'

**END OF LESSON 3**

RIGHT CLICK TO END SHOW